

NEW-YORKISMS.

From Our Own Correspondent. NEW YORK, Dec. 16, 1869. A Thankless Task. Only a day or two ago I had occasion to chronicle the lamentable case of the "Coroner's man" and poor Mr. Baldwin, the Herald reporter, who was more frightened than hurt, and underwent a new experience in crime unlike anything else in all his reportorial recollections. The Herald men appear to be particularly inimical to such attacks. Some time ago a young man connected with the New York News Company, and guilty of the name of Van-Vietchin, or Velvet-chin, or some such surname, added to his guilt by embezzling some of the company's money. This unbusiness-like proceeding induced the company to bring an action against Mr. Velvet-chin, but at the recommendation of Judge Dowling sentence was suspended, and Mr. Velvet-chin was allowed another chance. He "improved the opportunity" by at once proceeding to the office of the Herald, where he announced his intention of "licking" the reporter who had reported the trial. Falling to find him, and being ejected from the office, he next went to Sweeney's Hotel, where he met one of the employees of the News Company, to whom he elucidated his intention, at an early day, of putting a bullet through him. Not desiring to enjoy ventilation precisely by that process, the employee gave notice to the News Company, and the News Company arrested Mr. Velvet-chin on a bench-warrant, to come up for sentence on the original charge of embezzlement. The consequence is that Mr. Velvet-chin has retired into involuntary privacy, where he remains for six calendar months.

The New Post Office. There are three reasons why the work at the New Post Office is at present standing idle. First, want of money; second, want of granite; third, want of weather. To ameliorate the first Congress has been petitioned for an additional million dollars; to obviate the second, granite is to be immediately transported hither from Dix's Island, off the coast of Maine. To remedy the third, Providence—or the very indefinite something which stands for Providence—is being silently invoked in the architectural bosom of Mr. Hurlbut, the superintendent. To nullify the attacks of the frost the piers are carefully sheathed with straw and canvas. The change which has taken place in the dimensions of the old wooden fence gave the public some opportunity for becoming slightly acquainted with the result which had been attained within it. Hitherto it has encroached over the sidewalk spaces that all pedestrianism was monopolized by the Astor House and Park Row pavements. Now that the piers are laid, however, the fence has been taken in to the width of the former sidewalk, and a neat plank walk has been laid. The working force has been reduced to about one-twelfth of the original number, only about one hundred men being employed. As soon as the million dollars are granted, however, and the Maine granite arrives, the present force will be enlarged, and operations will be "pushed." The scene around the New Post Office at all times is a ground plan of mad huddle tangled with a multitude of yelling shoe-blacks and newboys, madly darting vehicles and bewildered foot-passengers, grinding around each other like the infinitely magnified inhabitants of a drop of water.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton has evidently adopted towards women's meetings in this city the same attitude which she has deemed it expedient to assume towards those of Western cities. For instance, in answer to an invitation from the Woman's Suffrage Convention of Cleveland, she telegraphed back word that she must decline, since her actions for the last two years have been disliked by many of the members, since she detested the very struggle that her presence would most likely give rise to, and since her time was much preoccupied. Her reasons are good ones, and it is partly owing to them, I have no doubt, and partly owing to her absence from the city, that so little is heard of her here just now. The remembrance of her seems to have died out of public assemblies, and the lesser lights get their theories all by themselves. Mrs. Stanton is too sensible a woman to be permanently popular with them; and they have too many narrow ambitions and envies to regard with complacency her quiet supremacy. Add to this the excessive unpopularity of these lurid lesser lights among the true-hearted women who believe that woman's most important place is at the fireside, and the genuine respect and admiration in which Mrs. Stanton is held by them, and you understand something of the secret reasons why her name is no longer much mentioned in connection with the Woman's Suffrage Association.

Flat "Whorlery." The season has arrived in which the mournful-visaged President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals must expect to spend much of his time in the police courts—though may justly grant he may never have occasion to put in an appearance before Justice Dowling, with whom he last year had a difference of opinion, which settled itself into a question of veracity between the two parties. A very funny scene occurred yesterday afternoon between Mr. Bergh and the driver of a dray in Broadway, between Canal and Franklin streets. At that particular point the ascent of Broadway is rather steep, and the condition of the mud there is only rivalled by that of the Fifth avenue pavement. It was at this point, however, that the Hibernian driver of the dray commenced whipping his horses with an energy only in use among drivers who have the best reasons for treating the animal kindly. In the midst of it all a solemn voice, issuing from the centre of the surrounding crowd, was heard to exclaim, "Pause, wretch!"

The Hibernian involuntarily did so; and found two lantern-like eyes fixed upon him, and a lantern-like jaw opening and shutting with the process of vituperation in which the lips were engaged. Hesitating only for an instant, the Hibernian (who had a Catalan accent) told Mr. Bergh to go to where Satan can't skate. At this Mr. Bergh squared off in an attitude confidently believed by him to represent the highest style of pugilism, when a third actor in this opera bouffe appeared, in the person of a dry goods clerk from a neighboring store. Animated by no comprehensible motive, this youth squared off at Mr. Bergh, and no one can say what the consequences would have been, had not Tony Campbell, one of Mr. Bergh's right-hand men, suddenly slipped in the mud, carrying his principal with him. After this three groans went up for the S. P. C. A., the crowd collapsed, the Hibernian drove on, and serenity was restored to Canal street and Broadway. ALI BARRY.

An Ida Lewis photograph was in desolating Rhode Island. One side claims fraud. A man now in Detroit carries his scalp in his pocket. The Indians took it off for him. A brave girl at Madison, O., disposed of a burglar with a kettle of boiling potatoes.

CAVE DWELLERS IN ARIZONA.

Ancient Ruins—Remains of an Extinct Race—Montezuma Well. A party from Camp Verde, Arizona, recently visited a place called "Montezuma Well," situated on Beaver creek, about eight miles distant. The well is about one hundred yards back from the stream, upon a high, isolated mesa, and is about 125 yards in width, and about 100 feet down to the water, which is surrounded by perpendicular walls of rock. The water is very clear, of a light green or bluish color, and is very strongly impregnated with lime, sulphur, soda, iron, and other minerals. It is no visible inlet, but its outlet is by a subterranean passage at a point nearest Beaver creek, into which it empties a large volume of water. The whole country between the "Sierra Prieta" and the "Mojave" ranges of mountains is a limestone formation, and full of caverns, some of which are quite extensive. All along the bluffs of the Rio Verde and Beaver creek, wherever these caves exist, they are found to be the dwelling places of a race of people which has long since passed away, and about which not even mythology tells a tale; but it is generally supposed that they are of a very ancient character, as old, and probably older, than the Aztecs of Mexico. It is certain that the present aboriginal occupants of the territory were of a different race altogether, and from their fierce and warlike character, it is supposed that they are the destroyers of this industrious agricultural people. The object of the expedition was to explore the caves and ruins by which the place is surrounded, and ascertain, if possible, the depth of water in the well. We took with us a rubber bag, which was inflated and launched. Dr. W. H. Smith (post surgeon) and myself undertook to make the soundings, which we did in a very satisfactory manner, but with a great deal of labor and at imminent peril, owing to a thick growth of water plants which floated upon the surface, and extended some twenty feet from shore, and through which it was next to impossible to swim. By great exertions, the difficulties were overcome, and the soundings made, which, in the deepest place, was 11 fathoms. Around the well were massive walls of masonry, upon which time had made such fearful havoc that it was almost impossible to tell anything of their inner construction; but it was certain that they were intended as much for defense as for habitation. They were like the feudal castles of old—their fortifications and their homes. All around the well, in the high walls, were openings, which, once occupied, and from their elevated position, all remain nearly as perfect to-day as they were when abandoned, probably hundreds of years ago. The openings are built up with masonry, through which are left small entrances and loopholes for protection. The walls overhead are blacked with the smoke of their fires, now so old that it will not rub off. The plastered walls show the prints of their hands as plainly as if they were made but yesterday. Corn-cobs, pieces of guards, metal, and seeds are found in the plaster, which is conclusive proof that they were an agricultural people—and for a similar reason it is believed that they were a manufacturing people, as a good article of cloth and pieces of common twine have been found in these caves, and which are preserved in the same manner. We discovered a new cave which no white man had ever seen before; it was evidently the Gibraltar of this ancient city—the name of which to us is forever lost. Upon entering the great front room, in every direction were seen little rooms, where niches in the rocks had been built up with loop-holed walls, forming, as it were, counterpane galleries, as interior lines of defense, impregnable to any enemy except starvation. Leading from these are numerous passages which have not yet been explored. One passage led down into a great chamber, at the lower end of which a stream of water was found, evidently a branch of the outlet to the well. Owing to the poorly improvised torch that we had, it was not deemed prudent to explore any of the passages leading from this room. These caves are a strange place to live in; some of them are up almost perpendicular walls to a considerable height. And under extreme difficulties, with an incredible amount of labor, they have carried great rocks, immense timbers, and other building material, where it is almost impossible for a man to go. Remains of granaries and water works in which they kept their supplies, are found in nearly every abode of this character. Now it must not be supposed that the entire population were living in these caves, for in every direction that you may go in this territory, ruins of cities and towns are everywhere to be seen, in every valley, on every mesa, and on nearly all small eminences are remains of forts which they have built for protection against some common enemy which eventually exterminated them. Stone, metals upon which they ground their corn, acorns, and mesquit beans, pieces of broken ollar in which they cooked their food, and pieces of pottery, painted and glazed, are found everywhere. It seems as if every inhabitable place teemed with life, and that this country was once as densely populated as any of the Eastern States of the Union are to-day. The most perfect of any of these ruins, and which is in the best state of preservation, is in a cave on Beaver creek, about one mile and a half from Camp Verde. It is in a perpendicular wall of rock between 200 and 300 feet in height; the lower entrance is over 100 feet above the valley below. It is four stories in height, and, like all of the others, has its interior lines of defense. The floors are elaborately constructed of timbers covered with straight staves placed closely together, and upon this is placed the cement for flooring, usually six inches thick. The upper floors seem to have been constructed entirely for defense. A crenated wall, breast high, overhangs the whole structure, from which can be seen the entire surrounding country, and from its giddy height a stone can be thrown into the river 150 feet below. The excellent state of preservation of the wood and materials used in these caves is due to their sheltered position and the dry, hot climate of the country. Were it not for this, nothing would have been known of these people, and everything perishable which has been used in the construction of these houses has decayed wherever it has been exposed to the weather. Much has been said of these ruins, and many speculations have been made as to the builders; but it is all speculation, as no one knows who they were.—Cor. Cleveland Herald.

EUGENIE'S OLD CLOTHES. Annual Sale of the Cast-off Wardrobe of the French Empress. Empress Eugenie, who sets the fashions of the civilized world, has a sale of cast-off dresses every year, and as she rarely wears a dress twice, the number sold is always very great. A Paris letter-writer gives a graphic account of a sale just terminated. He says that the custom was established by the royal families of the Tuilleries long before the great Revolution, acceded to by the Empress Josephine, continued under the Restoration, maintained by the princesses of the House of Orleans, and kept up with great spirit under the present reign. A long gallery, which runs along the basement story of the palace, looking into the garden just opposite the Prince Imperial's winter walk, is fitted up for the purpose of a great sale of dresses. This is called the *de France* of the palace. It is here that the *refuse* dresses and the cast-off apparel of the royal and imperial ladies who have succeeded each other for the last hundred years in the occupation of the Tuilleries are invariably borne, when rejected from the floor above. These wardrobe cupboards, numerous and extensive as they are, get generally well filled during the year, and when the four seasons are considered thoroughly over, a sale is made of the whole, where every article is priced beforehand, and visitors are admitted to view and purchase without the observance of further ceremony than the presentation of an invitation or a card of introduction, and the name of the person to whom the privilege of granting them belongs. The sale of the royal wardrobe of the Tuilleries is conducted on the strictest principle of equity. The shutters of the long gallery are closed, and it is lighted from one end to the other with lamps and candles, and the light is stronger than it would be were daylight admitted, as the ceiling is low, and the windows sunk deep into the wall. Every article is ticketed, and, of course, no deviation from the original decision can possibly be allowed. A long line of stretchers are placed down the middle of the gallery, the doors of the wardrobes on either side are flung open, and the visitor, walking slowly down on one side and returning on the other, makes choice of what may suit his taste, and, inscribing the number it bears upon a card, hands the latter to the attendant in waiting at the door, and departs. The stretchers are occupied by the shawls, and the wardrobes by the dresses, the shelves by the under linen, while a sort of counter at the further end of the gallery is filled with the plignons, on which are exhibited the bonnets and dead-dresses. The white satin dress, most splendidly embroidered in silver, with the tulle of bullion gauze and silver monches, confined by bands of pouceau velvet, in which her Majesty went to the opera with the King Consort of Spain, was not quoted higher than the market-colored dress and jacket, braided with green, which was recognized as the uniform invented by the Empress for the drive at Fontainebleau. To be sure, the buttons were of malachite and set in gold, but the material of the dress could scarcely be considered as bearing any value whatever. The shawls were principally of French manufacture, and mostly for summer wear, the cloaks and mantles, deprived of their lace fur, are unattractive. The utmost exaggeration seems to exist in the prices put upon the bonnets. In the first place, the article itself is out of fashion almost as soon as seen; in the next, it possesses no resources whatever, and, above all, it is liable to a great deterioration from the dress. The habit of leaning back in the carriage, which has become so general, destroys the bonnet immediately, and renders it shabby in form, even while still bright and fresh in color. The proceeds of the sale are generally brought up by the valets and wouzes of the wardrobe, who dispose of what remains unsold to the great dealers in Paris, who again sell them to their customers at immense prices.

WARRANTON'S IMPROVED VENTILATED AND EASY-FITTING DRESS PATENTED IN ALL COUNTRIES AND NOW BEING WORN BY THE QUEEN NEXT DOOR TO THE POST OFFICE. ALEXANDER G. CATTELL & CO. PRODUCE CORNER MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA. No. 7 NORTH SECOND STREET, PHILADELPHIA. ALEXANDER G. CATTELL, REAR CORNER.

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DRY GOODS. GREAT CRASH. DRY GOODS. EVERYTHING DOWN—HIGH PRICES OVER FOR THE SEASON. GRAND CLOSING SALE OF RICKEY, SHARP & CO.'S IMMENSE STOCK OF DRY GOODS At Retail. Unprecedented Bargains IN SILKS, VELVETS, DRESS GOODS, and MISCELLANEOUS DRY GOODS. THIS STOCK IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE (AND VARIED EVER OFFERED AT RETAIL) IN THIS CITY, AND CONTAINS MORE NOVELTIES AND STAPLES OF RECENT IMPORTATION THAN CAN BE FOUND ELSEWHERE. ONE PRICE AND NO DEVIATION. RICKEY, SHARP & CO., No. 727 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. 1869. HOLIDAY PRESENTS! BEAUTIFUL AND CHEAP. A GREAT DEAL FOR LITTLE MONEY. SPECIAL and POSITIVE BARGAINS. MAY BE EXPECTED. PAISLEY AND BROCHE SHAWLS. POPLINS, BLACK SILKS, AND PLAIDS. 'KID' GLOVES, BLANKETS, AND CASSIMERES. JOSEPH H. THORNLEY, N. E. Cor. Eighth and Spring Garden, PHILADELPHIA. REDUCTION. We are reducing our entire stock to meet the lowest Gold Figures. Frosted Beavers reduced from \$6.00 to \$4.00. Cloaking Cloths, all reduced. Shawls in variety, at \$1.50, \$2.00, \$3.00 and \$6.00. Fine French Merinos, in choice shades. Dress Goods of all kinds, down with the rest. Black Silks, in large assortment. Table Linen Napkins, Dogies and Towels at gold prices.

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